



Earth Connections Badge Badge Requirement # 1: Be an Ecologist





Mark out an area that is no larger than 20 paces square. This will be the "ecosystem" or community that you will study.

Describe the type of area you are studying.



List the plants and animals you observe in your ecosystem, or take a count of how many different species there are.

Plants	Animals

Are there different levels of plant life in this eco	osystem? How do the different levels affect each
other?	

Use a thermometer, or your hand and take or feel the temperature at ground level and chest level in at least three different places in the ecosystem you are studying.

	Ground Level	Chest Level
Area 1		
Area 2		
Area 3		

Where is it the warmest? The coolest? What causes differences in temperature?

Dig a small hole in the soil and note the different layers of soil. Feel and find out if there are differences in what the soil is made of and how it feels.

Layer #	Composition	Texture

Badge Requirement # 3: Identify That Tree

Learn to identify ten tree species using leaves, seeds, fruit, and bark as a means of identification. Describe the kind of ecosystem where each is likely to be found.

Tree Name	Ecosystem

Badge Requirement # 4: Reading the Rings

Find a tree stump where you can read the growth rings.	Count the rings to determine	e how old
the tree was when it died. Look for years of rapid growt	h and years of slow growth.	What might
have caused the differences in growth years?		

Badge Requirement # 6: Saving Animals and Plants



Visit a zoo or game preserve. Find out why the zoo or preserve exists, and if the zoo or preserve is doing any research to learn about and preserve species.

Badge Requirement # 7: Adapt or Perish

Look for some examples of ways that plants or animals have developed or adapted in order to survive in their habitat.

Animal	Adaptation



Badge Requirement # 8: Plants and People

Learn to identify five different plants that are native to your area. Find out if American Indians or early pioneers used these plants for food, medicine, or something else, such as bedding or fuel.

Plant	Use

